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CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC KVP Post Oranienburg - Sachsenhausen

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 8 July 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. [redacted] on 1 June 1953, 25X1  
 this installation was occupied by an AAA unit of 850 soldiers including 25X1  
 300 officer candidates, an infantry unit of 300 soldiers, a signal unit of 25X1  
 150 soldiers and an administrative unit of 80 men and 35 women. [redacted] 25X1  
 the unit had 7 x 85-mm AA guns, 4 T-34 tanks, 2 B-64 armored scout cars, 1 T-280  
 carbines, 840 x 80-type pistols, 270 x 76.2-mm pistols, 30 mortars of 80-mm caliber,  
 1,800 live stick hand grenades and 400 training stick hand grenades. The motor  
 equipment consisted of 28 3.5-ton IFA trucks, 4 jeeps, 3 BMW sedans and 6 BMW  
 350 cc motorcycles.

2. [redacted] on 21 April 1953, 25X1  
 one company left for Pasewalk to receive AAA training. Two companies went to 25X1  
 Ruegen on 23 April 1953 to receive special training. In early May 1953, two com-  
 panies of officer candidates were sent to Prora on Ruegen Island for a special 25X1  
 instruction course, which was scheduled to end on 15 August 1953. Eighty officer 25X1  
 candidates were detached to a school in Gera for 4 months of instruction on 1  
 June 1953. [redacted] five companies had been scheduled to 25X1  
 arrive at the castle from Chemnitz, Dresden, Meissen and Erfurt in early May. 25X1  
 [redacted] the discontinuation of the construction work had made it impossible 25X1  
 to receive these units which, therefore, received basic training in Torgelow and 25X1  
 would arrive in Oranienburg not until 1 September 1953.

3. On 12 May 1953 [redacted] the induction of 25X1  
 at the castle [redacted] the 1925 through 1935 classes was discussed. This induction was scheduled to 25X1  
 begin on 15 June 1953 and was to follow an instruction course for party members 25X1  
 and personnel of party organizations including FDJ which was to be held under  
 cover. 3

4. [redacted] lectures held for 1,200 VPs at two restaurants 25X1  
 on 15 May 1953 included as subjects the establishment of national forces for  
 the protection of our country, the necessity for friendship between Germany  
 and the USSR, the importance of rapid training for all branches of service, the  
 formation of partisan units, volunteering for air force units and FDJ recruit-  
 ing for the KVP. A military band played at the beginning and the end of these  
 lectures.

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5. [redacted] the 40 signal women auxiliaries stationed there had been discharged on 15 April 1953 on the ground that delivery of signal equipment was not to be expected in the foreseeable future. 25X1

6. Training activities of the troops stationed at the castle included street combat practices in Germendorf involving 350 to 400 soldiers wearing crimson epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets and 3 T-34 tanks and 1 BA-64 armored scout car at 10:30 p.m. on 27 April; practices of units of company strength rotating for 2 hours on 20 mortars between 8 a.m. and noon on 25 April; infantry training by KVP officers and NCOs of about 150 FDJ members at the athletic field behind the castle, beginning 5:30 p.m. on the same day; leaving of 10 canvas-covered trucks carrying between 250 and 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and towing 7 x 85-mm AA guns which were emplaced on the edge of the woods between Sommerswalde and Schwante and were ready for firing 105 minutes after leaving the installation at 7:15 a.m. on 2 May; training on 15 x 80-mm mortars of about 120 soldiers in the park of the castle between 8 a.m. and noon on 9 May; training of about 150 soldiers on 7 T-34 tanks [redacted] between 8 a.m. and noon on 16 May; AAA practice with 6 x 85-mm AA guns emplaced in the Neuhollland Forest and involving between 320 to 350 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets at 2 p.m. on 23 May; march with full field pack via Zehlendorf, Liebenwalde, Freienhagen and Sachsenhausen of about 450 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with small arms and following a [redacted] armored scout car, 3 motorcycles and 4 trucks, beginning 6:30 a.m. on 26 May; and formation drill at company level with full field pack daily at the athletic field from 28 to 30 May. The latter training activity was performed in the presence of Colonel Leverents, one VP lieutenant colonel, 1 Soviet lieutenant colonel and 2 Soviet majors and allegedly was a final inspection. 4 25X1

7. Exercises which, according to a KVP officer, were conducted by the troops stationed at the castle included a night exercise in the area of Hohenbruch-Teesrofen which began at 10 p.m. on 23 April and involved, in addition to 3 companies wearing red-bordered black epaulets from the castle, 4 companies of various branches of service from the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, a large number of civilians of the Sport and Technik organization, 5 T-34 tanks and 40 motorcycles and a night exercise in the Baerenkleu-Vehlefanz-Schwante area on 9 May which involved 4 infantry companies and 4 T-34 tanks. 4 25X1

8. At night on 28 April, a night exercise of VP stationed at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp was conducted in the area of Lehmitz-Lock and Schwachtenhagen and involved an estimated 1,500 soldiers of various branches of service who were armed with machine guns and rifles and supported by six T-34 tanks. Some of tanks took up cover on the edge of the woods. In the morning on 17 May, 9 T-34 tanks and 17 trucks carrying a total of about 500 soldiers with red service color left the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and moved to Neubrandenburg via Loewenberg, Granssee, Fuerstenberg and Neustrelitz and entered the Soviet occupied barracks [redacted] installation about 1 km northeast of the town. The tanks included [redacted] 4 An officer stationed at the concentration camp stated that two companies moved to the Fliegerschule in Kreuzbruch near Liebenwalde. 5 In the afternoon on 29 May, 14 trucks carrying about 400 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets arrived at the concentration camp. This service color was observed for the first time. Ammunition boxes [redacted] contained small arms ammunition, were trailed from 10 boxcars on two trucks at the siding of the camp on the same day. 6 25X1

9. [redacted] a VP transport unit equipped with 35 new 3.5-ton trucks 25X1 moved into Alte Zeppelinhalle between Schuetzen Strasse and the Sachsenhausen rail road station on 9 May. 7

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10. From 20 April to 3 June 1953, training was regularly performed on 16 to 18 about 80-mm guns at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. About 60 men who wore a letter A on their black epaulets were daily picked up at the castle and trucked to the training grounds to participate in the training on guns.

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11. A young VP stated that several units transferred from the concentration camp to the castle in late May 1953. Civilians of from 16 to 18 years of age allegedly continuously arrived at the camp.

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12. From 24 April to 5 June, the east section of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg was still occupied by about 2,000 men. The troops received training in the field and practiced with machine guns and mortars. They wore red-bordered black, yellow-bordered black, blue-bordered black, blue and red epaulets.

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1. Comment. Oranienburg Castle is occupied by the AAA officers school or the KVP and elements of the cadre division in Oranienburg.

2. Comment. This information cannot be verified. It is believed that instruction companies of the AAA officers school were temporarily transferred to the area of Pasewalk and on Ruegen Island of the area of Armeek Gruppe Nord for the execution of firing practice. The officer candidates attached to Gera are probably scheduled to attend a technical course and a local ordnance school.

3. Comment. Induction dates have repeatedly been postponed. The recruiting campaign of volunteers (professional soldiers) is continuing. Colonel Lewerenz was previously reported as commanding officer of the AAA officers school.

4. Comment. The information indicates that the training activity includes both the training of officer candidates of the AAA school and the training of the cadre division in Oranienburg. The information on training of FDJ members and members of the Sport und Technik organization shows that the SED Central Committee order on premilitary training which was meanwhile vacated had already been in the process of execution.

5. Comment. An air strip of the former German Air Force which is no longer used is located in Kreuzbruch. A glider school of the Sport und Technik organization was previously reported located in Liebenwalde.

6. Comment. The blue-bordered black epaulets are indicative of engineers and armored command. There is the possibility that the unit stationed at Oranienburg may be increased. This cadre division which is subordinate directly to the Ministry of the Interior is to be brought to full strength, a deserter stated.

7. Comment. The guns observed were probably 85-mm AA guns.

8. Comment. See [redacted] Comment 4.

9. Comment. The service colors observed indicate that the unit consists of artillery, signal, engineer, tank elements and infantry.

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